



Maine Department of Corrections

Return to Custody Reports and Findings

Terminology

The Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) works from the following definitions of key terms.

Return to Custody - When an offender from a Maine Department of Corrections facility returns to a Maine Department of Corrections facility, with or without new criminal conviction.

Return to Custody Rate (RCR) - The rate at which an offender from a Maine Department of Corrections facility returns to a Maine Department of Corrections facility. This data is collected in three year increments, post release. *Calculation of RCR is made through review of Maine Department of Corrections data only. Data from local correctional systems is not available and is not part of these calculations, nor is data from federal correctional systems.*

Recidivism - The Department of Corrections does not use the term *recidivism* in reports as the term means different things to different stakeholders. Often data termed *recidivism data* is a combination of data from federal, state and local correctional institutions. This can be misleading when having a dialogue specific to Maine Department of Corrections. To reduce the potential for confusion, MDOC uses the term "return to custody" as it describes the rate at which a Maine Department of Corrections offender returns to a Maine Department of Corrections facility.

Straight Release - When an offender is released directly from a Maine Department of Corrections facility back into his or her community, without probation.

Probation Release - When an offender is released from a Maine Department of Corrections facility onto probation supervision.

CORIS - The Maine Department of Corrections offender management database. It holds data from the Maine Department of Corrections only.

Straight Release

The average RCR for MDOC straight releases between 2010-2013 was 21.4%

2010 Release Year – Three year RCR – 17.6%

2011 Release Year – Three year RCR – 20.7%

2012 Release Year – Three year RCR – 22.2%

2013 Release Year – Three year RCR – 25%

Three year RCR Average – 21.4%

Probation Release

The average RCR for MDOC probation releases between 2010-2013 was 33.1%.

2010 Release Year – Three year RCR – 30.4%

2011 Release Year – Three year RCR – 34.1%

2012 Release Year – Three year RCR – 33.1%

2013 Release Year – Three year RCR – 34.8%

Three year RCR Average – 33.1%

Other Key Findings

- Offenders released between the ages of 20-29 years had the highest average three year return to custody rate at 36.5%.
 - The next highest average return to custody rate age group is 30-39 years of age at 30.25%.
- Offenders released with a Close (high risk) custody level had the highest average three year return to custody rate at 42.8% followed by Medium (moderate risk) custody at 34.5%

MDOC continues to review the impact programming has on return to custody rates. The 2018 Return to Custody Report is in progress. It will incorporate information relating to the correlation between core programming and return to custody rates.

Available Reports

The Maine Department of Corrections has reports related to return to custody available on the MDOC website.

<http://maine.gov/corrections/reports-statistical-data.htm>